BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS

Ministry of Management Services

Infoline

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- **Radium Hot Springs, Pemberton and Tofino fastest-growing municipalities in 2003**
- **Exports continue to slump in November**
- **Non-residential building construction down for the fifth time in six years in 2003**

Population

- **BC's smallest regional district (Stikine) had the fastest-growing population in the province in 2003.** The region, home to 1,357 people, saw its population increase 2.6% during 2003. Other fast-growing regions include Central Okanagan (+1.6%), Fraser Valley (+1.6%), Northern Rockies (+1.2%), Greater Vancouver (+1.1%), Squamish-Lillooet (+0.9%) and Nanaimo (+0.9%). Overall, the province's population grew 0.8%, increasing by 31,599 in 2003. Of the 28 regional districts in the province, 14 experienced population growth, two saw virtually no change in their population, and the rest lost people to other parts of the province, or locations further afield. Central Coast (-2.1%) and Skeena-Queen Charlotte (-1.5%) were the regions with the biggest population decline during 2003. *Data Source: BC Stats*

- **Radium Hot Springs (+8.1%), Pemberton (+7.3%) and Tofino (+6.2%) were the fastest-growing municipalities in the province in 2003.** Other municipalities that saw population growth of at least five percent were Courtenay (+5.7%), Slocan (+5.6%) and Harrison Hot Springs (+5.4%). Chetwynd (-4.8%) and Port Alice (-4.6%) experienced the biggest population declines. *Data Source: BC Stats*

The Economy

- **Exports of BC products continued to slump in November, declining 2.8% (*seasonally adjusted*) from the October level.** US exports were flat (-0.2%), but the value of goods shipped to other international destinations was off 8.2%, falling for the third month in a row.

  Exports dropped below October levels in most categories, with autos and machinery & equipment (-5.5%) and energy (-5.0%) products posting the biggest declines. International shipments of forest products (-2.6%) and industrial and consumer goods (-0.8%) were also weak. However, producers of agriculture and fish products saw shipments rise 1.6% in November, largely due to growth in US markets. Overall, US markets for BC products were stronger in November, with the exception of autos and machinery & equipment (-6.3%). Exports of forest products levelled off (0.0%) after declining in the previous month.

  Canadian exports edged down 1.1% in November, largely due to weakness in overseas markets. Exports to the US were flat (-0.1%), as the auto sector took a big hit (-5.7%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **Most provinces recorded lower exports last November (*unadjusted*) than in the same month of 2002.** BC's 9.8% decline was smaller than the year-over-year downturn at the national level (-10.4%). Quebec (-11.8%), Ontario (-13.2%) and Newfoundland (-38.3%) all recorded double-digit declines. Exports were also down in Manitoba (-6.1%) and Saskatchewan (-2.5%), and were flat in Alberta (0.0%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Investment in non-residential building construction remained weak in the fourth quarter, tumbling 2.0% (seasonally adjusted).** Spending on both industrial (-3.7%) and commercial (-4.2%) buildings continued to slump, while the institutional and government sector posted a 4.2% gain. Non-residential building construction activity in both Vancouver (-5.5%) and Abbotsford (-14.2%) fell sharply, partly due to a slowdown in construction of new office buildings. However, Victoria, where several projects (including a new arena facility) are underway, is experiencing a building boom, with spending up 7.8%.

  The fourth-quarter slowdown in construction

Report Municipal Population Estimates, 2003

Did you know...

Prince Rupert is the wettest city in the country. Port Alberni, Chilliwack and Abbotsford are ranked second, third and fourth, respectively, in terms of average annual rain and snowfall.

expenditures was widespread across regions. Canadian spending was off 0.3%, with all four of the large provinces posting modest declines (ranging from -0.2% in Ontario to -2.0% in BC).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Spending on non-residential buildings in BC reached $2.3 billion in 2003, falling (-4.6%) for the fifth time in the last six years.** A 28.3% drop in the institutional sector was the main reason for the decline. Despite weakness at the end of the year, investment in industrial (+11.5%) and commercial (+7.4%) projects was up strongly from 2002 levels. Both Vancouver (-1.3%) and Abbotsford (-30.0%) posted declines, but spending increased (+11.5%) in Victoria. Nationally, investment rose a solid 5.7%, boosted by strong gains in Newfoundland (+46.0%), Manitoba (+33.9), Ontario (+12.7%) and Saskatchewan (+6.7%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The cost of new housing in BC's two largest metropolitan areas continued to rise in November.** In Victoria, new housing prices were 9.8% higher than in November 2002, while homebuilders in the Vancouver area received an average of 3.8% more for their work. New housing prices in Victoria have been rising rapidly since early 2002, as the cost of both land and buildings has crept up. In recent months, land prices in particular have been exerting inflationary pressure on new housing costs. In Vancouver, the opposite is true: building prices are rising much faster than is the cost of land. Nationally, new housing prices were 5.0% higher in November than in the same month of 2002, as prices increased in every metropolitan area surveyed except Windsor, where they were unchanged. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The value of building permits issued by BC municipalities edged up (+1.0%) in November after plunging (-23.5%) in the previous month.** Permits for residential housing projects were down (-12.3%) for the second month in a row, while planned spending on non-residential construction bounced back (+46.6%) from a slump (-51.2%) in October. Canadian permits fell (-3.9%) in November, with five provinces, including Ontario (-8.3%) and Alberta (-7.8%) posting declines. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Year-to-date, the *(unadjusted)* value of building permits issued during the first eleven months of 2003 was 12.5% higher than in the same period of 2002.** Every region except Nechako (-34.2%) saw a boom in planned construction spending. The biggest increases were recorded in Thompson/Okanagan (+51.1%), Kootenay (+49.1%) and Cariboo (+41.5%), where planned spending on non-residential projects has soared. Strong growth in residential permits also contributed to the increases in Thompson/Okanagan and Kootenay. These may be due in part to rebuilding in the wake of the fires that ravaged some areas during the summer. *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

- **More new cars, trucks and vans were driven off car lots in the province in November (+1.0%, seasonally adjusted) than in the previous month, but BC was the only province where business improved.** Lower prices contributed to the upturn in sales. Sales of North-American manufactured vehicles advanced, while retailers of vehicles manufactured overseas continued to see declines. Nationally, the number of new vehicles sold fell (-3.2%) for the fourth month in a row. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Accounting and Bookkeeping Services

- **The Enron and WorldCom scandals took a toll on Canada's accounting and bookkeeping industry, which contracted in 2002 for the first time in recent history.** Revenues were down 3%, partly due to organizational restructuring which saw some firms refocus on traditional auditing and accounting services while others spun off their consulting and legal services to avoid the appearance of conflicts of interest. Consulting, which accounted for 15% of total revenues in 2001, comprised just 7% of industry earnings in 2002.

  In British Columbia, revenues in this industry fell 17%, dropping to $1.1 billion. The consulting arm of the industry accounted for just 4% of total revenues, down from 13% in 2001.

  Data Source: SC, 2002 Survey of Accounting & Bookkeeping Services

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Infoline Report

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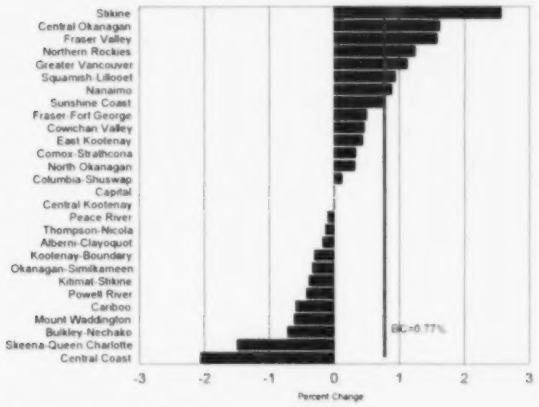
Municipal Population Estimates, 2003

The Province

British Columbia's population grew by slightly less than 1% (.8%) between 2002 and 2003. This represented an increase of 31,599 persons – from 4,114,981 in 2002 to 4,146,580 in 2003. The total population in Canada also grew by less than 1% (.9%) in the same period. As in the previous year, B.C.'s population growth in 2002–2003 was ranked third after Alberta (1.3%) and Ontario (1.2%).

A majority of the province's recent population growth has been due to strong inflow of immigrants from other countries. Over the period 2002–2003 (July 1 to July 1), B.C. gained a total of 24,813 persons through net international migration. The second contributor of population growth for the same period was the net gain of 11,377 persons through natural increase (births less deaths). Offsetting this growth was a net loss in population of 4,591 due to interprovincial migration. During that period, B.C. had a net loss of population to Alberta and Ontario.



Regional Districts

Fifteen of the total 28 regional districts exhibited a positive population growth between 2002 and 2003, while 13 regional districts had shown a population decline. However, the total population decrease in these 13 districts was relatively small (with Central Coast showing the largest percentage decline of -2.1%). Collectively, only 2,128 fewer people were living in these 13 districts when compared to the previous year.

Of the 15 districts that had population growth, seven showed a growth stronger than the provincial average of .8%. Greater Vancouver, home of more than half of the province's population, displayed a growth of 1.1% or 23,627 persons. This represented 75% of the provincial population growth. On the other hand, while Stikine gained only 34 persons in the period, it showed the highest growth in percentage terms (2.6%) because it has a much smaller population base.

Regional District	% Change	Pop Growth	2003 Pop
Greater Vancouver	1.12	23,627	2,126,806
Capital	0.00	10	340,132
Fraser Valley	1.58	3,987	256,462
Central Okanagan	1.63	2,537	158,562
Nanaimo	0.89	1,186	134,475
Thompson-Nicola	-0.13	-167	124,455
Comox-Strathcona	0.33	335	100,576
Fraser-Fort George	0.50	495	99,245
Okanagan-Similkameen	-0.34	-271	80,012
North Okanagan	0.32	248	77,116
Cowichan Valley	0.47	350	75,563
Cariboo	-0.60	-407	67,673
Central Kootenay	-0.01	-6	59,388
East Kootenay	0.44	258	59,334
Peace River	-0.10	-58	57,913
Columbia-Shuswap	0.12	62	50,614
Bulkley-Nechako	-0.72	-307	42,157
Kitimat-Stikine	-0.39	-164	42,093
Squamish-Lillooet	0.94	328	35,179
Kootenay-Boundary	-0.31	-103	33,227
Alberni-Clayoquot	-0.18	-57	31,448
Sunshine Coast	0.73	196	27,018
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	-1.50	-335	22,011
Powell River	-0.43	-89	20,495
Mount Waddington	-0.62	-83	13,376
Northern Rockies	1.24	74	6,044
Central Coast	-2.06	-81	3,849
Stikine	2.57	34	1,357
British Columbia	**0.77**	**31,599**	**4,146,580**

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Municipalities

There are a total of 155 municipalities for which population was estimated. In the period 2002-2003, 84 municipalities demonstrated population growth while the rest either lost population or showed no growth. The smallest municipality was Zeballos with 228 people and the largest was City of Vancouver with 568,442 people. There were 73 municipalities having a population of 5,000 or more people. Of those, Courtenay showed the strongest growth with a rate of 5.7% (or 1,104 people) while Surrey showed the strongest growth in terms of population with an increase of 11,972 persons (or 3.2%).

Top 10 Municipalities by Population Size

	2002-03 Pop. Change %	Persons	2003 Population
Vancouver	-0.06	-365	568,442
Surrey	3.17	11,972	390,145
Burnaby	0.78	1,596	205,261
Richmond	0.38	656	174,201
Abbotsford	2.27	2,824	127,451
Coquitlam	1.12	1,355	122,696
Saanich	0.04	45	107,964
Kelowna	1.68	1,713	103,421
Delta	-0.33	-330	100,571
Langley (Township)	0.81	735	91,359

The top ten municipalities made up almost half (48%) of the province's population. The largest municipality—the City of Vancouver—while it showed a small decline during 2002-2003, still represented about 14% of the B.C. population. Many of municipalities in the Greater Vancouver areas such as Surrey, Port Coquitlam, Maple Ridge and New Westminister showed strong growth in 2003. These so called "bedroom cities" for the GVRD have shown higher growth rates than the City of Vancouver as Lower Mainland growth has reflected the Greater Vancouver growth concentration strategy.

Vancouver and Victoria were the top two municipalities that lost the most population over the period. There were other municipalities on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland that lost population during the period. On the Island these included Oak Bay, Esquimalt, Port Alberni and Port Hardy, and in the Lower Mainland Delta, West Vancouver, West Vancouver and Lions Bay. However, these population decreases were small in each of these cities and represented relatively small percentage changes.

Top 10 Municipalities Losing Population

	2002-03 Pop. Change %	Persons	2003 Population
Victoria	-0.78	-600	76,387
Vancouver	-0.06	-365	568,442
Kamloops	-0.41	-333	80,416
Delta	-0.33	-330	100,571
Prince Rupert	-1.92	-289	14,760
Oak Bay	-1.20	-221	18,207
West Vancouver	-0.41	-175	42,867
Quesnel	-1.44	-149	10,198
Port Hardy	-3.15	-148	4,551
Cranbrook	-0.75	-147	19,327

Municipal estimates are calculated by the Population Section of BC Stats through a regional estimation model that has been developed and refined over the past 20 years. This model, which uses indicators such as residential electrical connections and telephone line location information, has enabled BC Stats to produce relatively accurate population estimates without the high cost of conducting a census.

Knowledge of population growth and where it occurs are vital to the planning process. For this reason the Municipal and Regional District Estimates are an important tool for the provincial and local governments in assessing current and future community needs.

The population estimates for 1996 to 2003 (as well as the estimates for 1976-1995) are available on the BC Stats web site: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

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Ministry of Management Services

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British Columbia Municipal and Regional District Population Estimates

Name	Area Type	2001†	2002	2003	2002-03 % Chg.
Alberni-Clayoquot		**31,663**	**31,505**	**31,448**	**-0.2**
Port Alberni	C	18,515	18,350	18,235	-0.6
Tofino	DM	1,530	1,556	1,653	6.2
Ucluelet	DM	1,627	1,625	1,652	1.7
Bulkley-Nechako		**42,636**	**42,464**	**42,157**	**-0.7**
Burns Lake	VL	2,028	2,054	2,077	1.1
Fort St. James	DM	2,011	1,978	1,964	-0.7
Fraser Lake	VL	1,323	1,308	1,267	-3.1
Granisle	VL	368	364	349	-4.1
Houston	DM	3,733	3,593	3,551	-1.2
Smithers	T*	5,651	5,643	5,513	-2.3
Telkwa	VL	1,431	1,415	1,411	-0.3
Vanderhoof	DM	4,582	4,566	4,517	-1.1
Capital		**340,027**	**340,122**	**340,132**	**0.0**
Central Saanich	DM	16,018	16,061	16,091	0.2
Colwood	C	14,344	14,429	14,437	0.1
Esquimalt	DM	16,834	16,789	16,710	-0.5
Highlands	DM	1,747	1,762	1,773	0.6
Langford	DM	19,661	19,980	20,292	1.6
Metchosin	DM	5,070	5,083	5,161	1.5
North Saanich	DM	10,890	10,896	10,923	0.2
Oak Bay	DM	18,572	18,428	18,207	-1.2
Saanich	DM	108,178	107,919	107,964	0.0
Sidney	T	11,404	11,355	11,372	0.1
Sooke	DM	9,116	9,192	9,305	1.2
Victoria	C	77,361	76,987	76,387	-0.8
View Royal	T	7,587	7,762	7,868	1.4
Cariboo		**68,507**	**68,080**	**67,673**	**-0.6**
Quesnel	C	10,481	10,347	10,198	-1.4
Wells	DM	245	245	237	-3.3
Williams Lake	C	11,639	11,558	11,422	-1.2
100 Mile House	DM	1,815	1,809	1,789	-1.1
Central Coast		**3,942**	**3,930**	**3,849**	**-2.1**
Central Kootenay		**59,503**	**59,394**	**59,388**	**0.0**
Castlegar	C	7,306	7,262	7,168	-1.3
Creston	T	5,003	4,966	4,957	-0.2
Kaslo	VL	1,077	1,052	1,053	0.1
Nakusp	VL	1,772	1,773	1,765	-0.5
Nelson	C	9,703	9,585	9,630	0.5
New Denver	VL	561	553	553	0.0
Salmo	VL	1,169	1,172	1,142	-2.6
Silverton	VL	232	227	232	2.2
Slocan	VL	351	354	374	5.6
Central Okanagan		**154,195**	**156,025**	**158,562**	**1.6**
Kelowna	C	100,496	101,708	103,421	1.7
Lake Country	DM	9,672	9,687	9,785	1.0
Peachland	DM	4,857	4,957	4,998	0.8
Columbia-Shuswap		**50,320**	**50,552**	**50,614**	**0.1**
Golden	T	4,195	4,274	4,281	0.2
Revelstoke	C	7,826	7,868	7,782	-1.1
Salmon Arm	DM	15,873	15,830	15,980	0.9
Sicamous	DM	2,839	2,872	2,864	-0.3

Name	Area Type	2001†	2002	2003	2002-03 % Chg.
Comox-Strathcona		**100,323**	**100,241**	**100,576**	**0.3**
Campbell River	DM	29,699	29,513	29,617	0.4
Comox	T *	11,660	11,761	11,937	1.5
Courtenay	C *	19,103	19,236	20,340	5.7
Cumberland	VL*	2,732	2,715	2,747	1.2
Gold River	VL	1,418	1,360	1,340	-1.5
Sayward	VL	396	395	397	0.5
Tahsis	VL	626	580	559	-3.6
Zeballos	VL	234	226	228	0.9
Cowichan Valley		**75,139**	**75,213**	**75,563**	**0.5**
Duncan	C	4,903	4,817	4,820	0.1
Ladysmith	T *	6,874	6,914	6,972	0.8
Lake Cowichan	T	2,950	2,939	2,958	0.6
North Cowichan	DM	27,290	27,361	27,368	0.0
East Kootenay		**58,744**	**59,076**	**59,334**	**0.4**
Cranbrook	C *	19,280	19,474	19,327	-0.8
Elkford	DM	2,701	2,683	2,671	-0.4
Fernie	C	4,812	4,870	4,841	-0.6
Invermere	DM	2,983	3,000	3,084	2.8
Kimberley	C	6,766	6,736	6,710	-0.4
Radium Hot Springs	VL	608	639	691	8.1
Sparwood	DM	3,978	3,984	3,954	-0.8
Fraser Valley		**247,918**	**252,475**	**256,462**	**1.6**
Abbotsford	C	120,501	124,627	127,451	2.3
Chilliwack	C	65,672	65,947	66,618	1.0
Harrison Hot Springs	VL	1,402	1,473	1,553	5.4
Hope	DM	6,455	6,435	6,431	-0.1
Kent	DM	5,141	5,157	5,207	1.0
Mission	DM	32,638	32,688	32,894	0.6
Fraser-Fort George		**99,478**	**98,750**	**99,245**	**0.5**
Mackenzie	DM	5,433	5,406	5,316	-1.7
McBride	VL	742	729	716	-1.8
Prince George	C	75,567	74,849	75,609	1.0
Valemount	VL	1,247	1,258	1,232	-2.1
Greater Vancouver		**2,073,681**	**2,103,179**	**2,126,808**	**1.1**
Anmore	VL	1,403	1,434	1,496	4.3
Belcarra	VL	712	716	716	0.0
Bowen Island	IM	3,086	3,147	3,244	3.1
Burnaby	C	202,421	203,665	205,261	0.8
Coquitlam	C	117,816	121,341	122,696	1.1
Delta	DM	101,177	100,901	100,571	-0.3
Langley	C	24,673	24,517	24,577	0.2
Langley, Township of	DM	90,685	90,624	91,359	0.8
Lions Bay	VL	1,439	1,421	1,419	-0.1
Maple Ridge	DM	65,924	68,824	71,399	3.7
New Westminster	C	57,045	57,529	59,426	3.3
North Vancouver	C	46,236	47,662	48,136	1.0
North Vancouver	DM	85,904	85,645	85,839	0.2
Pitt Meadows	DM	15,311	15,887	16,148	1.6
Port Coquitlam	C	53,497	55,783	57,308	2.7
Port Moody	C	24,854	25,674	26,690	4.0
Richmond	C	171,520	173,545	174,201	0.4
Surrey	C	363,013	378,173	390,145	3.2
Vancouver	C	569,475	568,807	568,442	-0.1
West Vancouver	DM	43,228	43,042	42,867	-0.4
White Rock	C	19,047	19,440	19,539	0.5

British Columbia Municipal and Regional District Population Estimates

Name	Area Type	2001†	2002	2003	2002-03 % Chg.
Kitimat-Stikine		**42,660**	**42,257**	**42,093**	**-0.4**
Hazelton	VL	360	360	348	-3.3
Kitimat	DM	10,733	10,578	10,432	-1.4
New Hazelton	DM	782	785	759	-3.3
Stewart	DM	690	694	701	1.0
Terrace	C	12,639	12,453	12,373	-0.6
Kootenay-Boundary		**33,234**	**33,330**	**33,227**	**-0.3**
Fruitvale	VL	2,114	2,074	2,084	0.5
Grand Forks	C	4,230	4,140	4,113	-0.7
Greenwood	C	695	684	666	-2.6
Midway	VL	666	654	644	-1.5
Montrose	VL	1,114	1,109	1,098	-1.0
Rossland	C	3,804	3,753	3,714	-1.0
Trail	C	7,905	8,152	8,167	0.2
Warfield	VL	1,815	1,839	1,828	-0.6
Mount Waddington		**13,683**	**13,459**	**13,376**	**-0.6**
Alert Bay	VL	608	632	634	0.3
Port Alice	VL	1,175	1,164	1,111	-4.6
Port Hardy	DM	4,774	4,699	4,551	-3.1
Port McNeill	T	2,944	2,894	2,847	-1.6
Nanaimo		**132,555**	**133,289**	**134,475**	**0.9**
Nanaimo	C	76,185	76,344	76,736	0.5
Parksville	C	10,773	10,803	10,932	1.2
Qualicum Beach	T	7,224	7,250	7,294	0.6
North Okanagan		**76,424**	**76,868**	**77,116**	**0.3**
Armstrong	C	4,442	4,567	4,642	1.6
Coldstream	DM	9,504	9,567	9,685	1.2
Enderby	C	2,941	2,957	2,960	0.1
Lumby	VL	1,689	1,688	1,661	-1.6
Spallumcheen	DM	5,357	5,356	5,339	-0.3
Vernon	C	34,957	34,956	35,073	0.3
Northern Rockies		**5,969**	**5,970**	**6,044**	**1.2**
Fort Nelson	T	4,371	4,380	4,383	0.1
Okanagan-Similkameen		**79,983**	**80,283**	**80,012**	**-0.3**
Keremeos	VL	1,249	1,294	1,321	2.1
Oliver	T	4,409	4,416	4,367	-1.1
Osoyoos	T	4,483	4,481	4,565	1.9
Penticton	C	32,339	32,399	32,519	0.4
Princeton	T	2,723	2,725	2,716	-0.3
Summerland	DM	11,181	11,161	11,179	**0.2**
Peace River		**57,479**	**57,971**	**57,913**	**-0.1**
Chetwynd	DM	2,704	2,669	2,542	-4.8
Dawson Creek	C	11,224	11,115	11,024	-0.8
Fort St. John	C	16,734	16,827	16,730	-0.6
Hudson's Hope	DM	1,084	1,065	1,073	0.8
Pouce Coupe	VL	869	856	850	-0.7
Taylor	DM	1,193	1,227	1,258	2.5
Tumbler Ridge	DM	1,932	2,404	2,459	2.3
Powell River		**20,665**	**20,584**	**20,495**	**-0.4**
Powell River	DM	13,550	13,480	13,407	-0.5
Sechelt Ind Gov Dist	IGD**	38	38	38	0.0
Skeena-Queen Charlotte		**22,639**	**22,346**	**22,011**	**-1.5**
Masset	VL	967	950	952	0.2
Port Clements	VL	538	528	520	-1.5
Port Edward	DM	688	668	658	-1.5
Prince Rupert	C	15,282	15,049	14,760	-1.9

Name	Area Type	2001†	2002	2003	2002-03 % Chg.
Squamish-Lillooet		**34,534**	**34,851**	**35,179**	**0.9**
Lillooet	DM	2,859	2,777	2,718	-2.1
Pemberton	VL	1,709	1,861	1,997	7.3
Squamish	DM	14,870	14,835	14,954	0.8
Whistler	DM	9,284	9,432	9,480	0.5
Stikine		**1,374**	**1,323**	**1,357**	**2.6**
Sunshine Coast		**26,675**	**26,822**	**27,018**	**0.7**
Gibsons	T	4,076	4,087	4,133	1.1
Sechelt	DM	8,113	8,193	8,281	1.1
Sechelt Ind Gov Dist	IGD**	791	790	779	-1.4
Thompson-Nicola		**124,497**	**124,622**	**124,455**	**-0.1**
Ashcroft	VL	1,866	1,851	1,824	-1.5
Cache Creek	VL	1,102	1,110	1,140	2.7
Chase	VL	2,567	2,530	2,519	-0.4
Clinton	VL	648	645	655	1.6
Kamloops	C	80,655	80,749	80,416	-0.4
Logan Lake	DM	2,280	2,273	2,287	0.6
Lytton	VL	333	344	343	-0.3
Merritt	C	7,396	7,366	7,318	-0.7
British Columbia		**4,078,447**	**4,114,981**	**4,146,580**	**0.8**

Source:
Population Section, BC Stats,
Ministry of Management Services,
Government of British Columbia.
December 2003.

Notes:
All figures correspond to municipal boundaries as of July 1st of the year stated.
All figures are as of July 1st of the year stated.

C = City, T = Town, VL = Village, DM = District Municipality, IM= Island Municipality, IGD = Indian Government District, DR=Development Region.

** Denotes a boundary change between 2002 and 2003.*

***Sechelt Indian Government District is split between Sunshine Coast and Powell River Regional Districts.*

†2001 Census year figures include a PRELIMINARY estimate of net census undercount.

British Columbia Development Region	Area Type	Estimate 2001†	Estimate 2002	Estimate 2003
Vancouver Island/Coast	DR	717,997	718,343	719,914
Mainland/Southwest	DR	2,382,808	2,417,327	2,445,465
Thompson-Okanagan	DR	485,419	488,350	490,759
Kootenay	DR	151,481	151,800	151,949
Cariboo	DR	167,985	166,830	166,918
North Coast	DR	65,299	64,603	64,104
Nechako	DR	44,010	43,787	43,514
Northeast	DR	63,448	63,941	63,957
British Columbia Total		**4,078,447**	**4,114,981**	**4,146,580**

Infoline

January 16, 2004

fax transmission information service from **BC STATS**

Email transmission information service from **BC STATS**

also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Oct 1/03	% change on one year ago
BC	4,158.6	0.8
Canada	31,714.6	0.8
GDP and INCOME	2002	% change on one year ago
(BC - at market prices)		
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	135,552	2.7
GDP *($ 1997 millions)*	128,151	2.4
GDP *($ 1997 per Capita)*	31,143	1.5
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1997 per Capita)*	19,576	0.1
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Oct	2,770	-3.7
Merchandise Exports - Nov	2,268	-2.8
Retail Sales - Oct	3,413	0.6
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	Nov '03	12-month avg % change
(all items - 1992=100)		
BC	120.8	2.3
Canada	122.7	2.9
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)	Dec '03	% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)		
Labour Force - BC	2,223	0.3
Employed - BC	2,072	1.2
Unemployed - BC	151	-10.6
		Nov '03
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.8	7.6
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.4	7.5
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jan 14/04	Jan 15/03
Prime Business Rate	4.50	4.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	4.75	4.90
- 5 year	6.35	6.45
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jan 14/04	Jan 15/03
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.2869	1.5352
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.7782	0.6507
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE	Dec '03	% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)		
BC	679.72	0.5
Canada	668.75	2.7

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

2001 Census Profiles

Correction

An error was found in the **age-sex** data (pages 2 and 5). Corrected files have been posted to our site. Please replace any copies you have previously downloaded. Our apologies for the inconvenience.

Each 18-page profile, in PDF format, reveals just about all you can know about an area. Three pages of charts compare the area's makeup to that of the province. These are followed by data tables showing both local values and percentage distributions. A number of charts and tables feature data sorted according to the unique local experience.

Canada, the **provinces**, & **regional district** profiles are posted to our free site. Now in the WebStore are profiles for

- ✓ **Census Subdivisions**
- ✓ **Urban Areas** & **neighbourhoods**
- ✓ **Designated Places**

These additional files cost $5 each but, once further programming is completed, will be included in our subscription site ($200/year).

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

The December and Annual 2003 CPI will be released on Thursday, January 22. Look for updated tables on our site before noon (use the A–Z Subject List)

Released this week by BC STATS

- Labour Force Statistics, December 2003
- Major Projects Inventory, December 2003
- Exports, November 2003

Next week

- Consumer Price Index, December 2003
- Earnings & Employment Trends, Dec. 2003

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